AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The laser beam containment system of claim [10] 33, wherein said first portion comprises a bar with a passage therethrough for said laser beam, and a first end of said second portion fits telescopically over a first end of said first portion, a second end of said first portion being pivotally mounted to a housing for said first optic, and an end of said second portion opposite from said first end being detachably connected to a housing for said second optic.

12. (Original) The laser beam containment system of claim 11, wherein said bar further includes a transverse passageway adapted to position an alignment device in the path of said laser beam.

13. (Original) The laser beam containment system of claim 12, wherein said first portion further includes a first sleeve adapted to be moved from a position covering said transverse passageway to a position wherein said transverse passageway is accessible.

14. (Original) The laser beam containment system of claim 13, wherein said locking device comprises a second sleeve positionable over said first portion to

prevent movement of said first sleeve from said position covering said transverse passageway.

Claims 15-20 (Canceled).

21. (New) A laser beam containment system, comprising a laser-conducting structure for conducting a laser beam along a path from a laser beam source to a point of application of said laser beam, wherein the entire laser beam is encapsulated within said laser conducting structure along said path from said laser beam source to said point of application, said laser-conducting structure including at least two optics for directing said laser beam, and a tube arrangement interconnecting said at least two optics, said tube arrangement being movable out of said path for allowing access to at least one of said at least two optics without disturbing the distance relationship between said at least two optics.

22. (New) [The] A laser beam containment system of claim 21 wherein said tube arrangement includes first and second telescoping tube portions, wherein telescoping movement between [the] said first and second tube portions shortens an effective length of [the] said tube arrangement to facilitate movement of said tube arrangement out of said path.

23. (New) The laser beam containment system of claim 22 further including an unlockable retainer lockable in a retaining position for preventing said telescoping movement.

24. (New) A laser beam containment system according to claim 22 further including a padlock for locking said retainer in said retaining position.

25. (New) A laser beam containment system of claim 23 wherein said retainer is positionable around the outside of one of said first and second tube portions and adjacent the other of said first and second tube portions for blocking said telescoping movement; and further comprising a separate padlock for holding said retainer in such movement-blocking position.

26. (New) A laser beam containment system according to claim 22 wherein said at least two optics are mounted in respective blocks, said first telescoping tube portion being in telescopic relationship with a flange on one of said blocks, wherein said telescoping movement effects disengagement of said first tube portion from said flange.

27. (New) A laser beam containment system according to claim 26, said second tube portion is pivotably mounted to the other of said blocks to enable said tubular structure to be swung out of said path when said first tube portion has been disengaged from said flange of said one block.

28. (New) A laser beam containment structure of claim 22 wherein one of said tube portions includes a transverse passageway providing access to said path; and further comprising a sleeve positionable around the exterior of said one tube portion and slidable relative thereto for uncovering said passageway.

29. (New) A laser beam containment structure of claim 28, further comprising a retainer removably positionable between said sleeve and the other of said telescoping tube portions for preventing said sliding movement of said sleeve for uncovering said passageway.

30. (New) A laser beam containment system according to claim 29, further comprising a separate padlock attachable to said retainer for preventing removal of said retainer.

31. (New) A laser beam containment structure of claim 21 further comprising a separate lock for preventing movement of said tubular arrangement out of said path.

32. (New) A laser beam containment system of claim 31 wherein said lock comprises a padlock.

33. (New) A laser beam containment system, comprising:

a plurality of optics that direct a laser beam produced by a laser beam source along a path to a point of application of said laser beam,

one or more hollow tubes that are positioned in an arrangement wherein said laser beam passes through said hollow tubes,

at least one of said hollow tubes being adjustably positioned relative to at leas one of said optics to allow for access to said at least one optic for at least one

of maintenance and adjustment of said optic, said at least one hollow tube comprising at least a first portion and a second portion adjustably positioned relative to said first portion, said first portion also being adjustably positioned relative to a first one of said optics, and said second portion being adjustably positioned relative to a second one of said optics, and a locking device adapted to prevent movement of said first portion relative to said second portion, wherein movement of said first portion relative to said first optic and movement of said second portion relative to said second optic is also prevented.